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A-142 NO.

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DATE: September 8, 1966

Name of Officer

TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCPAC FOR POLAD
DANANG
HUE

FROM : AmEmbassy SAIGON

SUBJECT : The Candidates in II Corps

REF : Embtel 3940, August 19, 1966

This airgram consists of a general summary of the field of candidates in II Corps and a listing of the candidates in each constituency, with an identification of the likely winners. (The four Montagnard candidates for a single seat in Quang Ngai province of I Corps are also included.) A statistical analysis of the 68 ethnic Vietnamese candidates then running was furnished in the telegram under reference. Since that time, one Vietnamese candidate has withdrawn. Thirty-six candidates have filed for the nine ethnic-minority seats (six for Montagnards native to the Republic of Viet-Nam, two for refugee "highlanders" from North Viet-Nam, and one for the Cham minority of Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan provinces).

General Summary:

In the provinces of coastal II Corps, a traditional area of political activity, the militant Buddhists who participated in the People's National Salvation Councils of 1964 and the Struggle Movement of 1966 are not running. Their abstention has left the field open to other groups, such as the Catholics and the Cao Dai, who have relatively little strength in the area, and to outsiders, both military and civilian. In one or two places (Cam Ranh, Phu Yen) there is evidence that members of the Buddhist clergy on an individual basis are giving quiet support to nominal Buddhists candidates, but in general the Buddhist Institute campaign of boycott and non-participation has been effective. Province chiefs in the coastal provinces believe that the boycott will be rather effective in their capitals and less so in the countryside. Furthermore, they expect significant numbers of invalid ballots to be cast where Buddhists do go to the polling places.

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The situation is different in the provinces of the Central Highlands, where organized Buddhist strength has never been great and where there is a fair number of North Vietnamese Catholics. A Catholic candidate is unopposed in Lam Dong, and Catholic candidates are possible or probable winners in Darlac, Pleiku, Kontum and Quang Duc. Other Catholic candidates could win as well.

In the contests for the seats reserved for ethnic minorities, a significant number of ARVN officers and civil servants stand to be elected. This situation is probably the result of the limited educational and political opportunities that have so far been granted to the highlanders; almost anyone who has more than a local reputation has made his name in the military or the civil service. Thus ARVN officers, are expected to win both of the NVN refugee highlander seats (Binh Thuan and Tuyen Duc) and may also win the "native"Montagnard seats in Kontum, Phu Bon and Pleiku. Four members of the Montagnard separatist organization FULRO (Front Unifie de la Lutte des Races Opprimees) filed as candidates at the last minute. One of the two who are running in Darlac may be elected, but the FULRO candidates in Kontum and Phu Bon appear to have little chance.

Major General Vinh Loc, the Corps Commander, decided very late in the game that more military officers should be running for the ethnic Vietnamese seats. As a result, he stimulated late entries in several provinces. This tactic did not set well with his colleagues in the Directorate, with at least some provinces chiefs and mayors, or with other candidates. So far as the Embassy has been able to determine, none of these post-deadline candidates was allowed to run.

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CAM RANH

(See also Embtel 3627, August 16, 1966)

One seat. Three candidates. The city mayor, Lt. Col. Nguyen dinh Bang, told an Embassy officer early in July that there would be two candidates and that he had seen to it that both would be acceptable to him. Four actually filed, but one withdrew on August 15. Only one of the three remaining resides in the constituency. Security is good, and VN Navy junks will be used to transport some voters to the polls.

1. Tang quynh VAN. Born July 1, 1908, Ninh Thuan, CVN. Catholic. Resident in Cam Ranh. Retired civil servant (postal service, 1927-62). Member of National Revolutionary Movement in Diem era. Symbol: Bunch of lilies; slogan: "Construction".

2. Nguyen huu TO. Born February 10, 1930, Gia Lam, NVN. Buddhist. Navy lieutenant. Resident in Qui Nhon. Studied law at Saigon University. Elected to National Assembly in September, 1963. Symbol: Elephant.

3. Le thien NGO. Born March 21, 1935, Gia Dinh, SVN. Buddhist. Degree in mechanical engineering from University of Montreal, 1960. Presently an "expert" in office of the Prime Minister, apparently working in field of economic planning and industrial development. Resident in Saigon. Symbol: Sheaf of paddy.

Withdrew: Ho van HAI, 42-year-old Catholic from Thua Thien now heading the Khanh Hoa provincial administrative service in Nha Trang, withdrew after the final posting of candidates. [redacted] speculates that his withdrawal was due to fear that old charges of accepting kickbacks would be raised against him. According to the [redacted] the Mayor said that the Catholics did not want to split their vote between Hai and Van.

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Comment: The Mayor said early in August that he considered Navy Lt. To a heavy favorite (reftel). Also, To was said to have the support of the local bonze. By mid-August [redacted] the Mayor was not discounting Van, the local Catholic, whose only Catholic opponent had withdrawn.

DALAT

(See Embtel 4339 and A-111, both August 24, 1966)

One seat. Six candidates remain, of the ten who originally filed. This large field was unusually controversial and contentious, and it produced four separate cases dealt with by the Central Electoral Council.

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1. Nguyen duy QUANG. Born June 7, 1915, Ha Dong, NVN. Either Buddhist or Catholic. Druggist. Advisor to Hanoi municipal council, 1953-54. Possibly a VNQDD member. Fifth of nine successful candidates for Municipal Council, then selected chairman. Reportedly participated in Struggle Movement in 1966. Apparently running in tandem with Hoang co Binh, Saigon city councillor who is a candidate in surrounding Tuyen Duc province. (Binh, former mayor of Hanoi, is also from Ha Dong.)

2. Hoang TRI. Born January 1, 1901, Thua Thien CVN. Buddhist. Businessman. Finished seventh of the nine elected to Municipal Council in 1965. Arrested in 1964, presumably for participation in People's National Salvation Council. Municipal administration protested his approval as candidate to Central Electoral Council, which dismissed the complaint for lack of evidence.

3. Vu trong KY. Born December 26,1908, Bac Ninh, NVN. Religion unknown. Retired ARVN lieutenant colonel.

4. Le thanh CHAU. Born December 25, 1938, Thai Binh, NVN. Catholic. High school teacher in Dalat since 1958. In June 1966 elected Secretary-General of Executive Committee of "Dalat, Tuyen Duc and Lam Dong Catholic Greater Solidarity Forces".

5. Le ba KHAM. Born May 5, 1913, Quang Tri, CVN. Buddhist. Merchant. Fellow candidate Hoang Tri complained to Central Electoral Council that Kham had a conviction for embezzlement and that he owed taxes. The complaint was dismissed for lack of evidence.

6. Tran quang KHAI. Born March 28, 1888, Ha Noi, NVN. Confucianist; leader of Confucianist Association of Dalat. Retired civil servant (former mandarin of the Royal Court). Chairman, National Revolutionary Movement, 1957-59. Chairman of previous municipal council. One of the oldest candidates in the country.

Disqualified: Le dinh DIEN, a 51-year-old Buddhist merchant, was disqualified on the basis of police evidence of his contacts with known Communists. He appealed to the Central Electoral Council, which confirmed his exclusion by a vote of 4 to 3, with 2 abstentions.

Phan nhu NGAN, 52, a Northern Catholic who is administrator of the Pasteur Institute, was dropped from the list for unknown reasons. He may have failed to complete his dossier.

ARVN Captain Do dinh LAN, who allegedly had Buddhist support (refair), filed late but survived the protest of candidates Hoang Tri, Pham dinh Sung and Le thanh Chau. (He claimed that he had been out on a military operation on the filing deadline.) Capt. Lan was nevertheless dropped from the list, reportedly because of strong protests by the Mayoress and Municipal Council.

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Withdrew: Candidate Pham dinh Sung, 47, a native of Phu Yen employed in the city public works service, withdrew his candidacy after the final posting of the list for unknown reasons.

Comment: Vietnamese sources indicate that Municipal Council chairman Nguyen duy Quang is the favorite. | Quang may have the support of Thich Tu Man, who is the acting senior bonze in Dalat and who originally planned to support Capt. Lan.

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BINH DINH

(See Enclosure 1 to A-45, July 30, 1966 and Embtel 4908, September 1, 1966.)

Three seats. Four lists. Two of the four lists are military, one is Catholic and one VNQDD. Four other lists, including at least one that could definitely have been considered "Buddhist", withdrew. The province chief, Lt. Col. Tran dinh Vong, and his deputy for security predict an orderly election with a good turnout. However, UBA Buddhists will probably make their opposition to the election felt in Qui Nhon, where voter turnout may be poorer than in the districts. Security is fairly good except in the northern districts of the province.

List I: Slogan: "Construction"

1. Phan van PHU. Born November 13, 1927, Quang Binh, CVN. Nominal Buddhist. ARVN captain. Has studied law. Was attached to Ministry of Revolutionary Development before coming to Binh Dinh four months ago, where he has been an officer of the Provincial Rural Construction Committee.

2. Trinh thien TU. Born January 1, 1937, Khanh Hoa, CVN. ARVN 2nd Lt. Attended University of Saigon, and for four years (1959-63) was employed at Oceanographic Institute in Nha Trang.

3. Nguyen van VIEM. Born September 20, 1938, Thua Thien, CVN. ARVN Sub-Lieutenant. Graduate of University of Saigon.

List II: Slogan: "Responsibility"

1. Ngo van NHAM. Born April 10, 1933, Ha Dong, NVN. Nominal Buddhist. Major in ARVN Medical Corps. Resident of Qui Nhon since 1963, where he is now head of military hospital, owner of private clinic and chief of provincial Health Service. Has studied in U.S.

2. Nguyen duc LINH. Born November 20, 1926, Hanoi, NVN. Buddhist. ARVN Captain. Resident in Qui Nhon. Reportedly a member of the VNQDD.

3. Hoang ngoc DINH. Born March 2, 1928, Haiphong, NVN. Buddhist. Captain in Medical Corps.

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List III: Slogan: "Unity"

1. Luong thuong HAI. Born July 15, 1916, Binh Dinh, CVN. Buddhist. Hai is a long-time political activist in Binh Dinh, member of Nguyen Tuong Tam faction of the VNQDD. Presently an employee of provincial Administrative Service.

2. Ha thuc ANH. Born 1916, Binh Dinh, CVN. Businessman in Phu Cat district. Chairman of Cat Hanh village National Revolutionary Movement, 1958-62. Retired low-ranking civil servant. Originally number three on this list.

3. Nguyen dong THINH. Born October 15, 1910, Binh Dinh, CVN. Farmer of Tuy Phuoc district. Former village chief. Buddhist. Originally the alternate on this list.

Disqualified: Nguyen tai NONG, a farmer, was originally the second candidate on this list. He was disqualified for failure to complete his dossier.

List IV: Slogan: "Independence"

1. Phan Chau TUAN. Born June 24, 1920, Binh Dinh, CVN. Businessman in Qui Nhon. Catholic, reportedly with Catholic seminary education. Affiliated with Catholic "Greater Unity Force" in Binh Dinh.

2. Nguyen van CONG. Born 1905, Nam Dinh, NVN. Catholic. In French Army from 1925-1940, served, by his own account, in France and North Africa. Returned to Viet-Nam in 1940, according to [redacted] was with Viet Minh in 1945-46. Presently lives in An Khe. Finished 11th of 12 successful candidates for Provincial Council in 1965. b-1 ec

3. Nguyen the VY. Born October 10, 1930, Binh Dinh, CVN. Catholic. Former P.A.T. and R.D. cadre team leader.

Withdrew: Four lists withdrew. One was headed by Tran khac CAN, chairman of the Provincial Council and a Buddhist (ref air). Civil servants headed two of the others, and a businessman headed the fourth.

Comment: The two military lists appear strongest. Phu and Nham should win easily, with the third seat going to Hai or Tuan. There is a small possibility that Nham could run well enough to pull in his number two, Nguyen Duc Linh.

BINH THUAN

(Ref: A-118, August 27, 1966)

Binh Thuan has two Vietnamese seats and one Northern Montagnard seat. Cham voters in Binh Thuan will elect a representative jointly with the Chams of Ninh Thuan province; the Cham election is discussed under Ninh Thuan, below.

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Vietnamese seats: Five lists remain of the seven that originally filed. One list was excluded for having filed late and another because it included only one name.

List I: (Military)

1. Nguyen duy CUNG. Born May 31, 1932, Vinh Long, SVN. Buddhist. ARVN captain in the Medical Corps, with medical degree from Saigon University, 1965. Although he rendered medical services to Buddhist monks at their pagodas during the 1966 Struggle Movement, he is considered a "solid citizen".

2. Tran van SU. Born December 28, 1924, Nam Dinh, NVN. Religion unknown. Also a captian in the Medical Corps.

List II: Slogan: "Democratic Progress" (Catholic)

1. Nguyen huu DUC. Born February 15, 1938, Bac Ninh, NVN. Catholic. Graduate of National Institute of Administration, 1963. Civil servant; arrived in province 1964. Formerly district chief, now chief of Administrative Service.

2. Nguyen van CHE. Born December 12, 1928, Thanh Hoa, CVN. Catholic. Fisherman. Came South in 1955.

List III: Slogan: "Truong-Xuan" (candidates' names)

1. Dam quang TRUONG. Born March 17, 1907, Quang Yen, NVN. Buddhist. Lawyer. Former chief of Bac Ninh province, NVN. Came South in 1955. Advisor to People's National Salvation Council, 1964. Advocates constitutional monarch for Viet-Nam.

2. Pham hoai XUAN (alias Pham van HAI, alias Thuat CHI). Born January 4, 1893, Binh Thuan, CVN. Confucianist. Accountant. Member of National Revolutionary Movement, 1960-63.

List IV: Slogan: "Independence" (Catholic)

1. Do HAI. Born October 28, 1903, Thua Thien, CVN. Catholic. Retired teacher. Chairman of the local Catholic Citizens' Bloc, which nevertheless is supporting List I.

2. Tran ba NGHAI. Born January 1, 1901, Gia Dinh, SVN. Catholic. Industrialist (manufacturer of nuoc mam containers). Elected to National Assembly, 1963, and to Provincial Council (finished fifth of nine winners), 1965. Served as secretary-general of Council.

List V: Symbol: "Rice Flower" (Catholic)

1. Nguyen duc KY. Born July 15, 1910, Nghe An, CVN. Catholic. Businessman. Ex-Viet Minh. Member of National Revolutionary Movement during Diem regime.

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2. Tran dinh DI. Born October 10, 1926, Binh Thuan, CVN. Catholic. Civil servant (provincial administrative service). National Revolutionary Movement, 1955-63.

Disqualified: Tran ba NHUT, a 50-year-old Buddhist who manufactures ice and nuoc mam and who was allegedly involved in the abortive coup of November 11, 1960, was excluded when he failed to present a second candidate to complete his list.

A list consisting of Tran KHAM, a civil servant, and Nguyen duy THUAN, a building contractor, was disqualified for late filing.

Comment: Probably the most significant factor in Binh Thuan is the absence of Buddhists and of local people generally from the field. Most notably missing is Truc Vien, chairman of the Provincial Council and long-time political activist (ref air). None of the list-leaders is a native of the province. Three lists are made up of Catholics, and the Catholic vote is divided. Cung, the Army Captain heading List I, and Duc, the civil servant heading List II, are considered the most likely winners. Truong of List III has a chance.

NVN Refugee Montagnard Seat:

1. Phang cong PHU. Born July 1, 1919, Hai Ninh, NVN. ARVN major. Lives in Saigon.

2. Vong a SANG (aka Khoang ya SANG). Born March 19, 1902, Hai Ninh, NVN. Retired ARVN colonel. Important Nung leader in NVN. Now president of North Viet-Nam Refugee Minority Races Association in Saigon (where Sang lives). Former troop commander in Binh Thuan.

3. Ly siu CONG. Born February 11, 1929, Hai Ninh, NVN. ARVN captain; formerly chief of Hai Ninh district, Binh Thuan, where he now lives.

4. Vong chay MENH. Born January 5, 1928, Hai Ninh, NVN. ARVN captain. Lives in Saigon.

Comment: The Province Chief, Lt. Col. Dinh van De, has said that Col. Sang is the strongest candidate, with Captain Cong as his chief competitor. According to Nung Brig. Gen. Pham van Dong, Sang has the support of Maj. Gen. Vinh Loc, the Corps Commander, but has lost most of his Nung following (Embtel 4529, August 26, 1966). Gen. Dong believes Capt. Cong will win if the election is honest.

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DARLAC

(Ref Embtel 4720, August 29, 1966)

Vietnamese seat:

Three candidates remain, of the six who originally filed. (One withdrew to contest the Montagnard seat.)

1. Hoang cong HOA. Born September 1, 1927, Ha Tinh, NVN. Catholic. Highschool education. Teacher since 1945. Migrated from NVN to Kontum in 1953 and to Ban Me Thuot in 1954. Ran for National Assembly in 1959 and 1963, lost both times. Finished third among nine winners for Provincial Council in 1965.

2. Nguyen huu XAO. Born June 1, 1924, Kien An, NVN. Ancestor worship. Highschool education. Businessman. Since 1963 Chief of Lac Giao hamlet in Ban Me Thuot, where he settled in 1954. Once jailed by Viet Minh.

3. Bui xuan HINH. Born January 1, 1910, Ninh Binh, NVN. Buddhist or ancestor worshipper. Highschool education. Businessman. Jailed by Viet Minh, 1945. Jailed in 1961 for failure to repay loan from GVN. Finished ninth of nine successful candidates for Provincial Council in 1965.

Disqualified: Do van XUYEN, 59, Buddhist native of NVN and retired civil servant, was excluded for pro-Communist political activity. (He may have participated in anti-GVN demonstrations in spring of 1966.) He did not appeal to the Central Electoral Council, and nothing is known of the evidence in his case.

Withdrew: ARVN Capt. Tran quang TIEN officially "withdrew". He apparently filed too late and was probably one of General Vinh Loc's 13th-hour candidates.

Y Blien HMOK withdrew to contest the Montagnard seat (below).

Comment: Hoa and Xao are considered the principal contenders, with Hinh given little chance. Hoa is considered the best-qualified by Vietnamese observers.

Montagnard seat:

1. Y Blieng HMOK. Born January 19, 1920, Darlac, CVN. Rhade tribe. Highschool education. Planter. Aided Viet Minh in 1945; jailed by French, 1946-50. Chief of Ban Me Thuot district, 1950, and Deputy Province Chief for Montagnard Affairs, 1956. Ran for National Assembly, 1963, but lost. Participated in September, 1964 FULRO uprising. Finished eighth among nine elected to Provincial Council in 1965, then selected vice-chairman. Disliked by Montagnards for alleged "corrupt dealings" and considered a "lackey of the GVN". Popular with Vietnamese.

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2. Y Yok AYUN. DPOB unknown. Medic or health worker in Buon Ho district.

3. Y Yen MLO. DPOB unknown. ARVN captain, stationed in Buon Ho district.

4. Y Tang PHOK. DPOB unknown. A FULRO candidate.

5. Y Wick Buon YA. DPOB unknown. A FULRO candidate.

Comment: Y Blieng HMOK is the best-known of the three non-FULRO candidates but appears to have liabilities. In view of FULRO's strength in the province, one or the other of the FULRO candidates could well be elected.

KONTUM

(Ref A-66, August 11, 1966; Embtel 5212, September 3, 1966; and FVS-13,582, 30 August 1966)

Vietnamese seat:

Five of the original seven candidates remain. Four are members of the Provincial Council. One candidate was disqualified and the other withdrew to contest the Montagnard seat.

1. Tran van HAI a/k/a LY. Born August 27, 1919, Phuoc Tuy, SVN. Buddhist. Highschool education. Described both as businessman and as public health assistant. Served as Army medic 1950-57, discharged because of wounds. Ran fifth of six elected to Provincial Council in 1965.

2. Le huu LAM. Born October 29, 1933, Ha Noi, NVN. Non-practicing Catholic. Lived in Cambodia for 12 years. Studied medicine at Saigon University, 1952-60. ARVN medical corps since 1961, stationed in Kontum since 1961, holds rank of captain.

3. Nguyen huu PHU. Born July 12, 1907, Kontum, CVN. Catholic. Highschool education. Businessman. Member of Viet Minh, 1945-54. Jailed by French, 1952. Chairman of Kontum city council, 1954. Chairman of provincial VIS, 1956-63. Member of Can Lao party. Topped the field in Provincial Council election of 1965 and chosen chairman. Reportedly liked by Montagnards (he speaks and reads Bahnar) but distrusted by Vietnamese as "Diem i t".

4. Tong phuoc NGUYEN. Born January 1, 1930, Thua Thien, CVN. Catholic. Highschool education. Businessman. Arrived in Kontum 1951. Arrested 1955 on suspicion of spying for the VC. Finished fourth in Provincial Council election, 1965. Claims support of cyclo drivers and other occupational groups.

5. Nguyen van THONG. Born May 20, 1932, Ha Noi, NVN. Catholic. Moved to Saigon in 1954, to Kontum in 1959 where he taught at highschool. Jailed in Pleiku for theft, 1960-62, then returned to Kontum

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to teach. Dismissed 1963 for lack of teaching certificate. Finished third in Provincial Council election, 1965, and chosen secretary-general. Now teaching at a Catholic school and reportedly has the support of the Catholic diocese.

Comment: The leading contenders are Phu, Capt. Lam, and Thong. All are Catholics. Both Phu and Thong have some Montagnard support and Thong has Catholic support, but both are reportedly distrusted by many Vietnamese. Capt. Lam, who will probably get military and civil service vote, could well win. Most observers consider him the best man in the field.

Montagnard seat:

1. Siu KIOH. Born November 5, 1915, Kontum or Phu Bon, CVN. Catholic. Jarai tribe. Primary education. Male nurse at provincial hospital since 1936; now administrative officer of hospital. Investigated in 1958 for participation in Montagnard autonomy movement led by Paul Nur, who is now GVN Special Commissioner for Montagnard Affairs and is married to Kioh's niece.

2. HIU. Born 1931, Kontum, CVN. Bahnar tribe. Teacher.

3. Nicolas KIOP. Born 1911, Kontum, CVN. Sedang tribe. Retired ARVN lieutenant.

4. PEANG (a/k/a Nguyen van PHIEN). Born 1924, CVN. ARVN lieutenant and chief of provincial Montagnard service.

5. Jean JEM (born JUR). Born 1937, CVN. FULRO-sponsored candidate. 25-30 years old. A sergeant in FULRO forces; absent from province for some time.

Comment: Kioh is popular but is a Jarai in a province dominated by the Bahnar and Sedang tribes. Lt. Peang is considered the likeliest winner because he is well-known to Montagnard leaders (who will be the electors) through his official duties.

KHANH HOA

(Ref: Embtel 3627, August 16, 1966)

Three seats. Two lists. One of the two lists is entirely military, the other is composed of two professors and a lady pharmacist, all Buddhists, from Saigon. None of the candidates are natives of Khanh Hoa. One list was disqualified because its number two man had a very unsavory background and communist-neutralist tendencies. [illegible] of July 13, 1966 reported that a local Buddhist list intended to file, but no such list materialized.

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List I:

1. Hoang ngoc CAN. Born November 27, 1933, Hue, CVN. Buddhist. Can is reportedly a former Director of the Oceanographic Institute in Nha Trang and holds a degree in oceanography from a university in France. He is presently a professor in Saigon.

2. Vu dinh LONG. Born January 17, 1936, Nam-Dinh, NVN. Buddhist. Resident in Saigon, where he is a professor of science at the University of Saigon. Studied in the U.S. from 1959 to 1962.

3. Mrs. Nguyen thi KIM-GIAO. Born October 3, 1938, Vinh, NVN. Pharmacist in Saigon. Buddhist.

List II:

1. Pham ke TOAI. Born May 31, 1934, Ha Nam, NVN. Resident in Nha Trang. Catholic. 1960 graduate of Saigon University medical school. Captain in Medical Corps, stationed in Nha Trang for several years.

2. Pham quang HO. Born November 10, 1923, Ha Nam, NVN. Probably a Catholic. Captain in Sepcial Forces, stationed in Nha Trang since 1964. Interpreter at Fort Benning, 1956-57. Ho agreed to run only to help his friend, Dr. Toai, when it looked as if there would be heavy competition and little chance of his winning. However, he appears to have had enough of Army life, would welcome a change.

3. Tran dac LAN. Born February 1, 1937, Nam Dinh, NVN. ARVN sub-lieutenant. Studied at Saigon University law school and is now assigned to II Corps Military Court.

Disqualified: A list entitled "Unity" was disqualified because of the background of its number two man, Nguyen xuan SANH, an unsuccessful candidate for the National Assembly in 1959. Sanh is reportedly a member of the Tan Dai Viet party, and his record includes embezzlement, desertion, falsification of documents and misrepresentation. The Central Electoral Council in reviewing Sanh's protest found no persuasive evidence of alleged VC connections but apparently confirmed his exclusion on general principles. Leader of this list was Nguyen van TRINH, a Catholic school teacher. The third candidate was Vu huy TINH, a Buddhist, headmaster of a school, who also lost in the National Assembly election of 1959.

Comment: The military list is expected to receive the support of the Catholic-Dai Viet bloc in Nha Trang. Capt. Toai is said to be a member of the Catholic Citizens Bloc, and he or other members of his list are further reported to have Dai Viet connections. The civilian list is

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nominally Buddhist, and is probably banking on Buddhist support. The lists appear to be evenly matched, and, given the nature of the electoral system, the top candidate on each list is virtually a certain winner. Thus, Can and Toai will win, with the third seat going to Long or Ho.

LAM DONG

(Ref: Embtel 3106, August 10, and A-104, August 22, 1966)

Only one candidate filed (much to the displeasure of Maj. Gen. Vinh Loc, the Corps Commander), and he is therefore certain of election. He is Nguyen huu TRI, born in 1915 in Thanh Hoa, NVN. He is a Catholic and a prosperous tea-grower. He received the most votes in the Provincial Council election of 1965, was chosen chairman, and has been described as "the only real politician" in the province. He served with the French Army from 1939 to 1955, some of the time in France. Tri attended the second National Administrative Conference in March, 1966 and the National Political Congress in April.

NINH THUAN

(Ref: A-109, August 22, 1966)

Vietnamese seat:

Four candidates. (Two others, both ARVN majors, filed late, probably at the instigation of the Corps Commander. Neither was allowed to run.)

1. Nguyen khac KHOAN. Born December 1, 1898, Quang Tin, CVN. Ancestor worshipper and/or Buddhist. Retired civil servant, long record of civic activity. Chairman of National Revolutionary Movement in the province, 1959-62. Finished fourth of six elected to Provincial Council in 1965.

2. Van KINH. Born June 20, 1905, Binh Dinh, CVN. Confucianist/ancestor-worshipper. Retired civil servant (deputy province chief, 1949-51). Chairman of the provincial council; finished first in 1965 election. Participated in National Administrative Conferences of October, 1965 and March, 1966 and National Political Congress of April 1966.

3. Ho dac HONG. Born September 14, 1927, Thua Thien, CVN. Buddhist. Advertiser; operates book store. Imprisoned by Diem regime, 1960-63.

4. Le thien THAO. Born August 23, 1913, Khanh Hoa, CVN. Buddhist. Civil servant (economic service). Long political history: sometime Viet Minh, but reportedly once sentenced to death by them. Imprisoned by Diem regime, 1957-61. Refused permission to run for Provincial Council in 1965 because of suspected VC connections.

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Not permitted to run: Major Nguyen van THUONG, sector RF/PF commander, Major Nguyen van NHIEU, 44th Regiment (23rd Division), which is stationed in the province.

Comment: Vietnamese officials generally believe that Van Kinh will win. He is expected to get Catholic support because of his reputation as a nationalist (ref air and [redacted] b-1 ec

Cham seat (elected jointly by Binh Thuan):

Three candidates filed. Two of them from Ninh Thuan, but one of these has now withdrawn.

1. Thanh GIAC. DPOB unknown. Lives in Binh Thuan.

2. Chau van MO. DPOB unknown. Lives in Ninh Thuan.

Withdrew: Quang dang CAY, 60, only Cham member of the Ninh Thuan, withdrew from the race and was quoted as saying he preferred to remain in the province to look after local Cham matters and wanted to give a younger Cham a chance to gain political experience.

Comment: In view of Cay's withdrawal, Mo as the sole Ninh Thuan candidate has an arithmetical advantage if the Cham vote divides along provincial lines. (However, Binh Thuan officials claim that its Cham population in secure areas is larger than the secure Cham population in Ninh Thuan.)

PHU BON

(Ref: Embtel 5237, September 5, 1966)

Vietnamese seat:

No contest. Three of the four original candidates withdrew, and the only one remaining candidate is Nguyen huu CHUNG, born April 2, 1939, Kien Hoa, SVN. He holds an engineering degree in agriculture and forestry from University of Saigon (1963), where he was active in the struggle against the Diem regime. He has served for the past two years as chief of the provincial Forestry Service.

Withdrawn:

Le TRA, chairman of the Provincial Council, withdrew his candidacy, citing his age (64), lack of ability and wish to remain in Phu Bon. He is a native of Quang Ngai, CVN.

Two military officers of the sector staff, Capt. Dao ba NGOC and Phan thanh MINH (rank unknown), filed late but were accepted by the Provincial Electoral Council. They claimed that their applications had

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been postmarked at Pleiku prior to the filing deadline, but they withdrew before the Central Electoral Council could rule on Chung's complaint against them. These were presumably two more of the military candidates who filed at Gen. Vinh Loc's instigation and who were shot down by Saigon.

Montagnard seat:

Four candidates, one of them a member of FULRO.

1. Rcom PHOAN. Born September 3, 1940, Phu Bon, CVN. Jarai tribe. Farmer. Member of Provincial Council (finished third among six winners).

2. R'mah CHRAI. Born July 6, 1930, Phu Bon, CVN. ARVN lieutenant.

3. Rahlan DOAN. Born 1906, Phu Bon, CVN. Jarai tribe. "Notable". Finished fourth in Provincial Council election, 1965. Reportedly reluctant to run.

4. Ksor ROT. Born March 16, 1937, POB unknown but probably Phu Bon, CVN. Tribe unknown. Possibly not Jarai. FULRO member (possibly with rank of major) who recently rallied to GVN; has been out of province for some time.

Comment: Provincial officials expect either Phoan or Chrai to win. FULRO is said to be unpopular in the province since the uprising of December, 1965 in which 35 Vietnamese soldiers were killed; for this reason, and if he is not a Jarai, Rot is considered to have little chance of election.

PHU YEN

(Ref: Embtel 3627, August 16, 1966)

Two seats. Three lists remain. They represent the independent nominal Buddhists, the VNQDD and the Cao Dai, respectively. The other three lists that originally filed practically completed the political spectrum: an independent list with alleged VC connections which was disqualified; a late-filing military list and a Struggle-oriented Buddhist list, both of which withdrew.

List I: (Independent, nominal Buddhist)

1. Ly van HIEP. Born December 30, 1928, Ha Noi, NVN. Nominal Buddhist. Lawyer; practices in Tuy Hoa, where he has lived for three years. Previously a teacher and civil servant.

2. Tran duc LONG. Born April 20, 1925, Ha Noi, NVN. Nominal Buddhist. Lawyer; practices in Nha Trang.

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List II: (VNQDD)

1. Pham CAO. Born June 9, 1919, Quang Ngai, CVN. Buddhist. "Industrialist". Ex-Viet Minh. Former civil servant. Deputy chairman of provincial branch of Ky Dang Bo, Central Viet-Nam branch of the VNQDD.

2. Vo chi SY. Born May 10, 1916, Phu Yen, CVN. Catholic. Farmer. VNQDD member. Jailed for three months in 1959-60 on suspicion of anti-government activities.

List III: (Cao Dai)

1. Vo thuong KINH. Born December 30, 1922, Phu Yen, CVN. Cao Dai. Farmer-landowner. Fought under Cao Dai General Trinh minh THE in the 1950's and later active in the VN Phuc-Quoc-Hoi, Cao Dai political party.

2. Dang quang MINH. Born October 20, 1926, Phu Yen, CVN. Cao Dai. Oriental physician.

Disqualified: A list consisting of Cao van CHIEU, 60, a high school teacher and reportedly representative of Viet-Nam Press in Paris 1951-56, and Pham ngoc DU, 51, a farmer, was disqualified. Chieu's brother, Cao van Khanh, is allegedly a high-ranking officer in NVN. Du reportedly has a brother and a niece with the VC. The Central Electoral Council in Saigon rejected the appeal by Chieu and Du and confirmed their exclusion apparently on the basis of evidence that Du is in communication with known VC.

Withdrew:

A list headed by Huynh DIEU, the leading political figure in the province, withdrew--undoubtedly because the provincial branch of the Unified Buddhist Association would not sanction his candidacy. Dieu is thus the most prominent victim of the UBA's boycott policy known to the Embassy. He is 41 years old, is principal of the Bo De high school in the province, and led the field in the Provincial Council election of 1965. He served as chairman of the Council. He was involved to some extent in the 1966 Struggle Movement. His running-mate was Nguyen DAM, 30, a teacher at the Bo De school.

A military list filed late and then withdrew. Its members were Lt. Col. Le khac LY, 33, stationed at Qui Nhon, and 1st Lt. Nguyen dan NGOT, 42, an erstwhile law student serving as bureau chief of the provincial Rural Construction Council.

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Comment: Huynh Dieu would almost certainly have been elected had he stayed in the running. His withdrawal and the dissolution of the VNQDD/ Cao Dai/Catholic Anti-Struggle Alliance will benefit Lawyer Hiep of List I. Hiep is respected for his qualifications and may get Catholic support. Kinh is favored over Cao for the second seat because the Cao Dai outnumber the VNQDD in the province.

PLEIKU

(Ref: Embtel 4720, August 29, 1966)

Vietnamese seat:

Three candidates remain, of the six who originally filed. One was disqualified and two withdrew.

1. Ton that THANH a/k/a Quang NGOC. Born December 31, 1919, Thua Thien, CVN. Catholic; chairman of Catholic Solidarity Forces in the province. Journalist, using the pen name Quang Ngoc. Probably related to discharged Lt. Gen. Ton that Dinh.

2. Phan dinh KHEN. Born 1923, Kontum, CVN. Catholic. Merchant. Chief of village in Pleiku city since 1960.

3. Ngo thanh TUNG. Born May 18, 1936, Ba Xuyen, CVN. Religion unknown. ARVN captain assigned to G-3 section of II Corps HQ. Considered the personal choice of the Corps Commander, Maj. Gen. Vinh Loc.

Disqualified: Nguy van CHANH, 34, native of Long An, SVN, was disqualified for failure to complete documentary requirements. He is a civil servant (public works service) and presented himself as a candidate for the National Assembly in 1963 but withdrew prior to the election.

Withdrew:

ARVN Major Cai van TRANG, II Corps RF/PF Inspector, a 55-year-old native of Binh Dinh, CVN, withdrew on August 10, just prior to the final posting of the list of candidates, probably because he did not want to oppose Vinh Loc's candidate.

Pham van KHANH, a/k/a Pham KHANH, drugstore proprietor and member of the Provincial Council, also withdrew shortly before the final posting. Khanh is a Buddhist from Hanoi and allegedly participated in the Struggle Movement of 1966.

Comment: The Corps Commander obviously has considerable influence in his headquarters town; American observers correctly forecast the withdrawals of some candidates who opposed his choice. The consensus is

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that Khen, a devout Catholic, will be elected unless there is some manipulations of the results. However, military support for Capt. Tung could be a significant factor.

Montagnard seat:

Three candidates, none of them associated with FULRO. A popular fourth candidate withdrew, alleging that provincial officials were working against his election.

1. Nay BLIM. Born 1928, Phu Bon, CVN. Jarai tribe. Civil servant.

2. Rahlan YOK or YIOCH. Born 1914, Pleiku, CVN. Jarai tribe. Civil servant (education inspector). Unsuccessful candidate for National Assembly in 1956.
*3/
Withdrew: Rahlan BEO, about 50, also a Jarai, until recently Deputy Province Chief for Montagnard Affairs in Pleiku.

Comment: With Beo, the best-known candidate, out of the race, Yok -- who is also quite well known throughout the province -- is considered the likely winner.

QUANG DUC

(Ref: Embtel 4339, August 24, 1966)

One seat. Three candidates. NBC-TV filmed interviews with the candidates on July 20.

1. Nguyen tinh THUAT. Born December 15, 1925, Thanh Hoa, CVN. Catholic. Civil servant (chief of province economic service). Graduate of the National Institute of Administration. Former Deputy Province Chief for Administration in Phuoc Long. Was member of Republican Youth Movement.

2. Tran CUONG. Born March 3, 1940, Ha Dong, NVN. Confucianist/ ancestor worship. Teacher and former law student. Finished first in 1965 Provincial Council election and was chosen chairman.

3. Vuong son THONG. Born February 10, 1933, Thai Binh, NVN. Catholic. Photographer with photo shop in Gia Nghia, the province capital. (For five years personal photographer to Emperor Bao Dai.) Speaks Rhade. Said to have some personal following.

Comment: The Province Chief expects Thuat to win. He says Thuat is known throughout the province and will draw Catholic, military and civil service votes.

*3/ Ksor BUM. DPOB unknown. ARVN sub-lieutenant.

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TUYEN DUC

(Ref: Embtel 4339 and A-111, Both August 24, 1966)

Vietnamese seat: Four candidates.

1. Nguyen huu HIEP. Born January 31, 1941 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia of Vietnamese parents. Lived in Cambodia until 1956. Catholic. Studied pedagogy at Dalat University. Now teaches at Bui thi Xuan High School, Dalat.

2. Tran doan LUONG. Born April 3, 1930, Hai Duong, NVN. Catholic. Civil servant (chief of provincial agriculture service since 1962).

3. Nguyen van CHIU. Born January 1, 1913, Son Tay, NVN. Buddhist. Headmaster of Quoc-Viet High School. Secretary-general of the "Movement for Union of Northern Highlander People" (Nung, Thai and Tho tribesmen). Finished sixth of six elected to Provincial Council in 1965.

4. Hoang co BINH. Born April 8, 1909, Ha Dong, NVN. Religion uncertain. Dental surgeon. Old-line politician; much biographic information is on file in Washington. Presently a member of the Saigon City Council. Presumably chose to run in Tuyen Duc because of the heavy competition in Saigon and because he is known in the area, having practiced dentistry in Dalat from 1954 to 1956 before moving to Saigon. He is understood to be running in tandem with Nguyen duy Quang, who is chairman of the Dalat municipal council and a candidate in the Dalat constituency and who also comes from Ha Dong, NVN.

Comment: The race appears to be between Chiu and Binh. Hiep may make a good showing.

Central Montagnard seat:

Three candidates. Two others reportedly filed but withdrew.

1. Touneh TON. DPOB and tribe unknown. Employee of JUSPAO/Tuyen Duc.

2. Pangting K'TE. DPOB and tribe unknown. Male nurse at Dalat hospital.

3. Le son CUONG a/k/a Ya KUONG. DPOB and tribe unknown. ARVN captain and Tuyen Duc representative of the Special Commissariat for Montagnard Affairs.

Comment: Capt. CUONG is considered the probable winner.

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NVN Refugee Montagnard seat:

Six candidates. One other reportedly withdrew.

1. Dam van QUY. Born July 1, 1927, Cao Bang, NVN. ARVN colonel, now stationed in Saigon. Former province chief of Binh Thuan and regimental commander.

2. Luong van HOI. Born August 8, 1932, Dien Bien Phu, NVN. ARVN captain, on staff of Military Academy at Dalat.

3. Dao van AT. Born June 15, 1916, Lai Chau, NVN. Civil servant (deputy chief of Ban Me Thuot District, Darlac province.

4. Nong minh HONG. Born 1905, Lang Son, NVN. Merchant.

5. Nung giung TSANG. Born July 24, 1910, Lao Kay, NVN. Businessman.

6. Truong van VINH. Born January 1, 1909, Cao Bang, NVN. Retired civil servant.

Comment: Col. Quy is expected to win.

I CORPS: QUANG NGAI

Montagnard seat: Four candidates, none of them associated with FULRO.

1. Dinh van ROI. Born March 16, 1931, Quang Ngai, CVN. Probably Hre tribe. Farmer.

2. Dinh GHE. Born July 12, 1915, Quang Ngai, CVN. Probably Hre tribe. Missionary.

3. Dinh QUAN. Born November 12, 1930, Quang Ngai, CVN. Possibly Cua tribe. Farmer.

4. Dinh van NHON. Born May 15, 1928, Quang Ngai, CVN. Probably Hre tribe. Farmer.

Comment: The candidates come from four different districts of the province: Son Ha, Ba To, Tra Bong and Minh Long. (Ba To district is the center of Cua population, leading the Deputy Province Chief for Administration to speculate that candidate Quan may be a member of the Cua tribe.) Since 50 of the 107 Montagnard electors come from Son Ha district, the Deputy Province Chief expects candidate Dinh van Roi to be elected.

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